

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 19367 311106Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 H-01 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /029 W
-----127424 311109Z /13
O 311035Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5707

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, TH
SUBJECT: THAI HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP WRITES LETTER TO PRESIDENT
CARTER AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER

1. LATE AFTERNOON OF AUG 29 INDIVIDUAL NAMED SOMCHIT
(NOT RPT NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY) DELIVERED
TWO UNSEALED ENVELOPES TO EMBASSY, ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT
CARTER AND TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER. SOMCHIT DID NOT RPT
NOT ASK TO SEE EMBOFF BUT REQUESTED THAT LETTERS BE SEALED
AND FORWARDED TO ADDRESSEES. LETTER TO PRESIDENT ALLEGEDLY IS
WRITTEN ON BEHALF OF RELATIVES OF PERSONS DETAINED OCT 6,
1976 (AT TIME OF DISTURBANCES AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY
WHICH PRECEDED COUP) AND ASKS HIM TO ACT TO ASSURE FAIR
AND IMPARTIAL TRIAL FOR DETAINEES. TEXT OF LETTER TO
PRESIDENT BEING SUBMITTED IN SEPTTEL.

2. ENVELOPE CONTAINING LETTER TO PRESIDENT ALSO CON-
TAINED COPY OF LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER (TEXT ALSO
BEING FORWARDED SEPTTEL), PLUS COPIES OF LETTERS TO
PRIME MINISTER THANIN AND TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL
WALDHEIM. LETTERS TO PRESIDENT, CONGRESSMAN FRASER, AND
SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ARE BOTH IN ENGLISH AND THAI
AND ARE SIMILAR IN CONTENT. LETTERS TO PRESIDENT, CONGRESS-
MAN FRASER, AND SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ARE DATED AUG 5,
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WHILE LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER THANIN IS DATED JULY 28.

3. THE FOUR LETTERS WERE PRESUMABLY WRITTEN ABOUT THE
DATES GIVEN, AS THEY ALL STATE THAT PERSONS DETAINED OCT 6,
1976, HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR "FAIR AND
IMPARTIAL TRIAL." RTG ANNOUNCED AUG 24 THAT 18 PERSONS
ARRESTED OCT 6, 1976, WOULD BE TRIED IN NEAR FUTURE, AND

LETTERS HAVE THUS BEEN AT LEAST PARTIALLY OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHY THE LETTERS WERE DELAYED IN DELIVERY TO THE EMBASSY. LETTERS TO PRESIDENT, CONGRESSMAN FRASER, AND SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ARE SIGNED BY WATCHARA SANGPRATOOM, WITH TYPED LETTER HEAD IDENTIFYING THEM AS COMING FROM "THE OCTOBER 6 DETAINEES' RELATIVES GROUP, BANGKOK, THAILAND." WATCHARA SANGPRATOOM IS LISTED AS A RELATIVE OF SUTHAM SANGPRATOOM FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND, WHO WAS ONE OF THE ACTIVIST STUDENT LEADERS IN THE AGITATION THAT PRECEDED THE OCT 6 COUP. WE DO NOT RPT NOT HAVE ANY FURTHER INFO REGARDING EITHER WATCHARA SANGPRATOOM OR GROUP HE REPRESENTS.

4. LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER THANIN IS FAIRLY DETAILED CRICISM OF MANNER IN WHICH INVESTIGATION OF CASES OF DETAINEES HAS BEEN HANDLED AND SHOWS A LAWYER'S TOUCH. THIS LETTER, UNLIKE THE OTHERS, IS PURPORTEDLY SIGNED BY WATCHARA SANGPRATOOM AND 15 OTHER RELATIVES OF DETAINEES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO RPT NO SIGNATURES OVER THE NAMES OF THE PERSONS LISTED, AND WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW IF THEY, IN FACT, AUTHORIZED THE USE OF THEIR NAMES.

5. REUTERS APPROACHED PRESS ATTACHE AUG 31 AND ASKED IF LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO EMBASSY BY RELATIVES OF PERSONS DETAINED OCT 6. WE HAVE SIMPLY CONFIRMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACT OF RECEIPT AND HAVE ADDED THAT LETTER BEING FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON. WE INTEND TO MAKE NO RPT NO OTHER COMMENT.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INFORM CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S OFFICE OF THE ABOVE.
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977085/aaaaadxp.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: SHUM, PPDC, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
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